

ALL LIT UP!

QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** National Park Service
- **FUMBLE:** \$65,473 to demonstrate what happens to bugs when the lights go out
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Direct NPS to be more responsible with spending; only request grant funding when national interests will be advanced

People flock out of the cities on family vacations to take in breathtaking views and enjoy quiet, wide-open spaces. People also leave the big cities because they want to get away from huge buildings and brightly lit signs that block out the sky and make it impossible to see the stars at night. This has been normal human behavior for as long as there have been cities.



Photo: Shutterstock

Soon the world will also have the chance to know how the insects feel about brightly lit cities. In 2015 NPS awarded a \$65,473 grant to study the responses insects have to the placement of artificial lights and noise in areas

that traditionally have had little to no light other than sunlight.¹³⁵

The federal government spent more than \$65,000 to study what happens if someone turns on a light at night in a rural area. Anyone raised in a rural area can attest that one way to attract insects is to turn on a light. This type of ridiculous spending is why American taxpayers have been saddled with a debt of approximately \$19 trillion. NPS needs to put down the national credit card and walk away.

RECOVERY

Congress needs to clearly direct NPS, and all federal agencies for that matter, to be more responsible with federal spending and only spend when the national interest is advanced. Before requesting such a large grant, the NPS should utilize common-sense knowledge and perform a cost-benefit analysis of the necessity for such spending. It seems the more appropriate place to start would be to determine whether additional lighting is necessary and, if not, how that will impact future national park attendance by families, not insects.

For more information, please visit:

[Grants.gov: Development and Testing LIDAR to Study Insect Responses to Light and Noise](https://www.grants.gov)